



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

RUDOLPH W. FREY ET AL.

Serial No. **09/745,285**

Filing Date: **December 21, 2000**

For: **FLYING SPOT LASER ABLATION
METHOD**

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please enter the following amendments.

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 15, and insert the following paragraph:

a' In carrying out this technique, the pattern constitutes overlapping but not coaxial locations for ablation to occur with each pulse removing a microvolume of material by ablation or erosion. For different depths, a pattern is repeated over those areas where increased ablation is needed. The laser pulses are usually at a certain pulse repetition rate. The subsequent pulses in a sequence are spaced at least one pulse beam width from the previous pulse and at a distance the ablated particles will not substantially interfere with the subsequent pulse. In order to maximize the speed of the ablation, the subsequent pulse is spaced sufficiently close to enable the beam to be moved to the successive

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